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university of dayton

# news release

ANDREW YOUNG, FIRST IN  
UD SPEAKERS SERIES

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DAYTON, Ohio, October 2, 1980 --- The former United States ambassador to the United Nations whose resignation a year ago will go down as a footnote to the yet unresolved Palestinian autonomy question will launch the University of Dayton Distinguished Speakers Series Thursday, October 9th. Andrew Young will discuss the Middle East at 3 p.m. in the UD Fieldhouse. Admission is free.

At the request of President Carter, Young resigned from his U.N. post in July 1979 after violating a U.S. policy against negotiating with officials of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Young met that summer on "a chance social encounter" with PLO representative Zehi Libib Terzi to discuss the possibility of postponing action on an U.N. resolution that would endorse the creation of a Palestinian state. Young's action spurred mixed reaction on the part of the American public. His talking with a PLO official was seen as making more difficult Carter's efforts toward making peace in the Middle East. But his stepping down from the highest governmental position ever held by an American black was seen by many as a loss and sparked condemnation of the Carter administration by some prominent American black leaders. Upon his resignation from his 31 month U.N. stint, Newsweek reported that some speculated Young would be "more prominent that ever as a leader of American blacks."

Young's unconventional brand of diplomacy has gotten him into hot water with the State Department on more than one occasion before his forced July 1979 resignation. But his talent for international negotiation also helped the U.S. in its dealings with Black Africa and won entry into some Third World doors previously closed to the United States.



After Young's unrepenting departure from the United Nations, he promised to support Carter's 1980 reelection campaign. Last week he was reported as having defended the President's handling of foreign affairs during his last four years in office.

Young was prepared for his ambassadorship with a background that includes travel to 30 nations in most parts of the world, and his taking an active stand on a number of foreign policy issues during his three terms in Congress.

Born the son of a prosperous New Orleans dentist, Young's growing years were gentler than the average lot of Southern blacks in the 1930s and 1940s. He graduated in pre-med from Howard University in Washington, D.C., and completed study at the Hartford Theological Seminary. The 48-year-old ordained minister served rural pastorates in Alabama and Georgia, which led him to close affiliation with the late Martin Luther King, Jr. and leadership in the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

Young was elected to Congress in 1972 from Georgia's Fifth District, which was then 60 per cent white and 40 per cent black. He was twice reelected and during the third term President Carter appointed him United States Ambassador to the United Nations, a position which made him the most politically influential black in the nation.